they are aware that the *Pakuthi* Cutcherry, Nagercoil, is located inside the Ozhukinasseri *satram* to the great inconvenience of the travelling public?

(*b*) Did the Government, during the last administration, order the immediate removal of the said Cutcherry and has that order not yet been given effect to?

(*c*) In view of the fact that the *satram* provides an extremely useful resting place to pilgrims and women assembling from distant places and also in view of the fact that the location of the *Pakuthi* Cutcherry inside such a place attracts large crowds causing discomfort to travellers, will the Government be pleased to order the immediate removal of the said Cutcherry from that place?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The Nagercoil *Pakuthi* Cutcherry is held in a portion of the *satram*.

(*b*) and (*c*) Dewan Mr. M. Krishnan Nair, during his inspection of the *satram* on the 10th November 1917, asked the Dewan Peishkas, Padmanabhapuram, to arrange for the early removal of the Nagercoil *Pakuthi* Cutcherry and the Padmanabhapuram Division Survey Sub-Assistant's office, which were then held in the *satram* building, besides the office of the Assistant Sanitary Officer, Nagercoil Circle. The *Pakuthi* Cutcherry alone still continues to be held in the *satram* and steps will be taken to remove it to the tobacco bank-shall buildings.

Appointment of the Excise Commissioner as Controlling Officer of Customs.

61. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With reference to the replies given to the interpellations asked by Messrs. T. Kumara Pillai and M. N. Pillai in the Karkatakam Session of the Legislative Council in 1099 about the smuggling of coconut oil through the Arukutty Chowkey, will the Government be pleased to place on the table the notification or notifications appointing the Excise Commissioner as the Controlling Officer of Customs?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No such notification has been issued. According to clause (*a*) of Section 4 of Regulation V of 1088 and clause (*a*) of Section 4 of Regulation II of 1091, the Controlling Officer of Customs is the person authorised to exercise, subject to the Government, the chief control in matters relating to customs. The Excise Commissioner has been authorised to exercise such control by G. O. No. P. D. 1282, dated the 7th August, 1905 (*vide* page 963, Part I of the *Gazette* dated the 8th August, 1905).

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): From the G. O. referred to, I see that it is passed on a report from Mr. Vernede submitting a scheme for the organisation of a Separate Revenue Department. It also orders the Excise Commissioner to proceed with the organisation of

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[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar]

the Department and to frame Departmental rules. Will the Government be pleased to say which portion of this G. O. directly authorises the Excise Commissioner to exercise control over customs?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I do not know if my friend is in possession of a copy of the Gazette under reference. The G. O. is found on page 963.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I have got that in type here.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I will read the portion of the notification under reference:

"It is hereby notified that the powers hitherto exercised by the Dewan Peishkar and the Superintendent and the Magistrate, Cardamom Hills, with respect to customs, marine, opium, salt and tobacco under the Regulation and the Rules relating thereto are withdrawn from them and they are vested in the Excise Commissioner for the whole State."

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the date of that notification?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): 15th August 1905.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does it directly give authority to the Excise Commissioner?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Certainly, it does.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether these big powers were given to the Division Peishkars before the Land Customs Regulation came into force?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Under Section 2 respectively of the Land and the Sea Customs Regulations all the powers previously conferred upon the Excise Commissioner continue to be exercised by him under these Regulations.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): My question is whether the notification referred to gives full authority to the Excise Commissioner in the matter.

PRESIDENT: That has already been answered in the affirmative.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does not Section 4 of the Land Customs Regulation directly require that the Controlling Officer of Customs should be authorised to exercise these powers?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It does not do so. Section 2 will have to be read along with Section 4.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What about Section 6?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Section 2 is the Section under which the Excise Commissioner exercises these powers in pursuance of the notification quoted by me relating to 1905.

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MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to refer to Section 6 also of the Regulation?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have referred to that Section.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Under what Section of the Regulation was the article realised?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise out of the question.

LEGISLATION.

***The Travancore Village Panchayats Bill.*—(contd).**

PRESIDENT: We will now proceed with the consideration of the Village Panchayat Bill.

Clause 16.

The following amendments were not moved :—

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Add as sub-clause (8) "the promotion and encouragement of cottage industries."

Retain the Proviso to the clause in the original Bill omitting the words "or confer any power."

PRESIDENT: Clause 16, as now amended by the Council will run as follows :—

"Subject to such rules as may be prescribed in this behalf, it shall be the duty of the Panchayat, within the limits of the fund at its disposal, to make provision for carrying out the requirements of the village in respect of the following matters :—

(1) the cleaning of streets ;

(2) the construction, maintenance and improvement of wells and tanks for the supply of drinking water to the public.

(3) the opening of burial and burning grounds and the maintenance of grounds so opened ;

(4) the control and management of cattle pounds ; and

(5) sanitation."

The clause as amended was added to the Bill.

Clause 17.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I beg to move that "Vaccination" and "Registration of births and deaths" be included as sub-clauses (13) and (14) in Clause 17 and that the present sub-clause (13) be renumbered as (15).

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I second the amendment.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the House accepts the amendment.

The amendment was carried.

The clause as amended was added to the Bill.

Clause 18.

PRESIDENT: The question is that Clause 18 do form part of the Bill. No amendments have been tabled in respect of this Clause.

The Clause was added to the Bill.

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